

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12, 13 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Dratewski (US 2004/0067804). Drawtewski fails to disclose a derailleur engageable with the low-tension side of the chain to laterally urge the chain from a current output cog to a destination output cog as claimed in the present invention. Drawtewski discloses a plurality of connection elements 42, each connecting element 42 rotatably coupling a single drive element 38 to a single driven element 40 to transfer rotational motion from the drive elements 38 to the driven elements 40 (see paragraph [0077], lines 8-20). The drive elements 38 are mounted on a drive shaft 25 and the driven elements 40 are mounted on a driven shaft 27 (see paragraph [0077], lines 1-5). To establish a selected rotational ratio between the drive shaft and the driven shaft 27, an axially slidable body 50 rotatably engages a selected single driven element 40 to the driven shaft 27 (see paragraph [0092], lines 11-15). To shift between gear ratios, the body 50 of Drawtewski is axially moved between the driven elements 40, not the connection elements 42 or chains. In other words, the connection elements 42 or chains of Drawtewski are not laterally urged between driven elements 40 by a derailleur. Accordingly, Dratewski fails to disclose a derailleur engageable with the low-tension side of the chain to laterally urge the chain from a current output cog to a destination output cog as claimed in claims 1 and 10. For this reason, the rejection of claims 1 and 10 should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13 and 15-18 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a). Since claims 3, 4, 6-9, 12, 13 and 15-18 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of either amended claim 1 or amended claim 10, they are felt to overcome the rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1 or amended claim 10.

This reply is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa J. Serdyski", written over a horizontal line.

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